

From: Oliver Bausinger
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/27/01 5:35am
Subject: Comment on the Microsoft settlement

First of all, I have to say that I'm not a US citizen (I'm German), so my voice may not be heard in this phase of public comment.

But nevertheless:

Microsoft's use of its monopoly in the Operating System, Office and Internet Browser market is a high danger for its competitors. With its proprietary closed protocols and formats (MS Office Formats, Kerberos, etc.), it's limiting its competitors abilities.

Therefore I urge the US Government not to let the get away the easy way: Microsoft should be forced to open up their technical specifications for their file formats and protocols so that competing products can provide interaction.

Obviously, protocols that are used by 90% and more of the users should not be controlled by one company (but by some kind of non-commercial independent organization).

As non-US citizen, I urge you to apply the appropriate measures to this case.

Yours sincerely,
Oliver Bausinger